



Democratic Policy Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7050

Tom Daschle, Chairman
Byron Dorgan, Co-Chairman

SPECIAL
REPORT

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

July 1, 1999

Publication: SR-27-Crime

Republicans Target COPS Program While Community Police Officers Target Crime

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Republicans Target COPS Program While Community Police Officers Target Crime

The Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program has provided an unprecedented level of resources to communities across the United States in the fight against crime. Since its inception in 1994, the COPS program has awarded approximately \$6 billion to 11,300 communities to fund the hiring of more than 100,000 police officers.

The addition of 100,000 officers represents a nearly 20 percent increase in the amount of officers on the street. And more officers in our neighborhoods has meant fewer crimes of every type in every region of the country. Crime is at its lowest rate in 25 years and has declined for seven consecutive years. (*Crime in the United States, 1997*)

Despite this track record of success, Republicans have targeted the COPS program for elimination. **S. 1217**, the *FY 2000 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill, would eliminate the COPS program next year, and provide no funding for the 21st Century Policing initiative, the Democratic proposal to extend the program to allow police departments to hire up to 50,000 additional officers.

The COPS Program: A Common-Sense Approach to Crime that Works

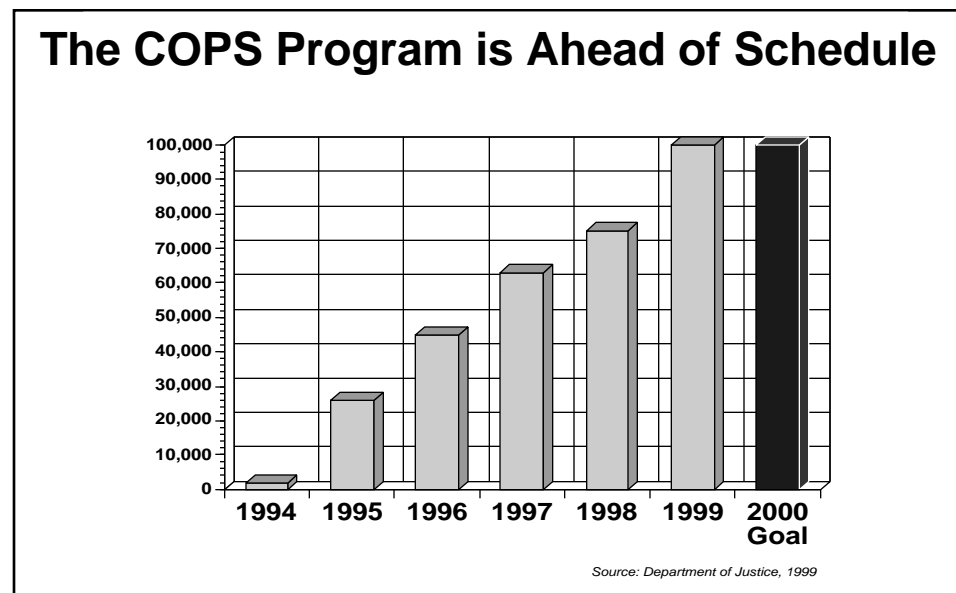
A common-sense response to crime. In the midst of rapidly increasing crime rates earlier in the decade, Democrats committed themselves to a common-sense principle: More officers on the street will mean fewer crimes in our neighborhoods. To make good on this commitment, Congressional Democrats passed the *Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*, which authorized the COPS program and provided \$8.8 billion over six years to fund 100,000 new officers.

Community policing puts officers on the street. The COPS program is based on “community policing.” Community policing is a law enforcement strategy that gives officers the skills, technology and motivation to provide innovative solutions to community problems. A fundamental shift away from more traditional, more reactive policing, community policing emphasizes putting more officers on the beat, establishing community partnerships, decentralizing command functions, and promoting innovative strategies to prevent crime.

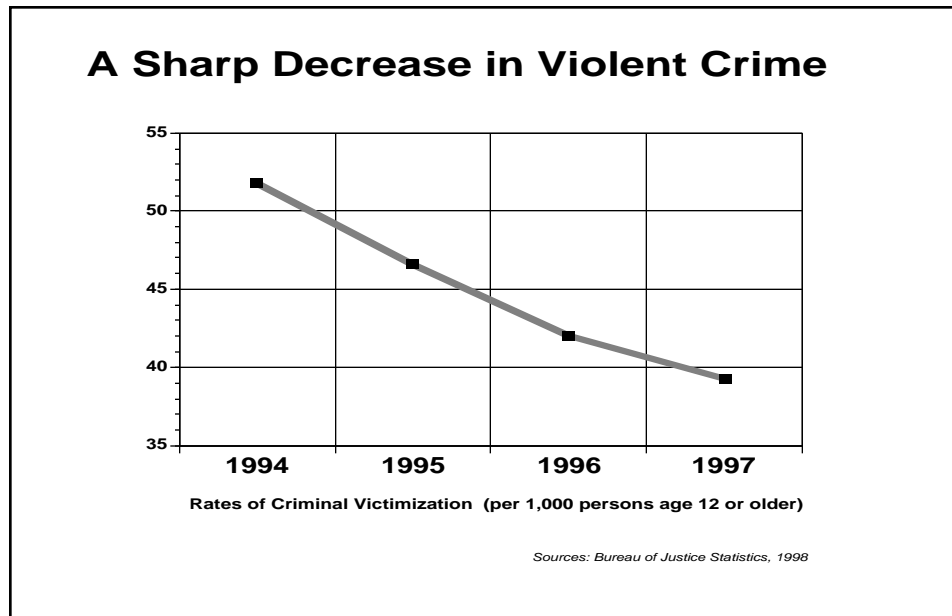
COPS in Schools reduces youth violence. The COPS program includes initiatives to help communities combat violence in schools. The School-Based Partnership program funds 155 partnerships between schools and law enforcement agencies to address violent crime in schools. The COPS program also has made \$60 million available under the “COPS in Schools” initiative to fund the hiring of community police officers to work in schools.

COPS is ahead of schedule and under budget. On May 12, 1999, the COPS program accomplished its goal of funding 100,000 officers for communities across the country. COPS grants have been awarded to policing agencies that serve more than 87 percent of the American public (Department of Justice).

The COPS program met its goal of funding 100,000 additional officers more than one year early and has spent just \$6 billion of the \$8.8 billion originally appropriated. As a result, the COPS program is ahead of schedule and under budget. Democrats believe we need to build on this success to continue to drive down crime rates.



More officers mean fewer crimes. Putting tens of thousands of new officers on the beat has made America safer. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has reported that crime in the U.S. in 1997 fell to its lowest level in 25 years (*Crime in the United States, 1997*). In its most recent annual survey, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reported the rate of violent crime victimization in the U.S. was 24 percent lower in 1997 than in 1994, the year the COPS program began (*National Crime Victimization Survey, 1997*). And according to preliminary figures released last month, serious crimes dropped another seven percent in 1998 (FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports, Preliminary Annual Release, May 1999*).



Law Enforcement Strongly Supports the COPS Program

Police chiefs speak out. Many chiefs of police across the country credit the COPS program with dramatic drops in crime rates.

- *"I have to believe our drop in crime is almost totally due to neighborhood policing."*

—Chief of Police, Thomas R. Windham, Fort Worth, TX,
(CQ Researcher, April 4, 1997)

- *"In 1995, we reduced our crime over 22 percent. It is my true feeling that we could not have accomplished that without our community policing effort and the COPS FAST Program. Your COPS programs have been right on target."*

—Director of Police, Thomas R. Maltese, North Brunswick, NJ,
(Letter to COPS Director, Joseph Brann)

- *"Before [being awarded the COPS grant], we were shorthanded. We weren't able to cover the street very effectively. Now, we can boast of cutting our crime rate in half."*

—Police Chief Dan Pesold, Bel-Nor, MO,
(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 15, 1996)

- *"[The COPS] program has been a breath of fresh air from Washington. I do not have words to describe the good it has done for this community. The combination of uniform and civilian personnel has lowered crime 48 percent."*

—Police Chief Rick L. Brown, Meredosia, IL,
(Letter to the COPS Office)

- *"[COPS funding] has been a godsend for us. We didn't have enough local money to go around We've seen a decrease in random crimes, things like auto prowls and vandalism."*

—Chief of Police, Steve Garrott, Richfield, WA,
(Columbian, November 7, 1996)

- *"We need the extra manpower, that's for sure. [Our COPS grant] made a dramatic difference in the crime rate."*

—Chief of Police, David Walker, Dolton, IL,
(Quoted in the *Lansing Times*, Lansing IL, September 12, 1996)

Law enforcement groups strongly support COPS. The COPS program is strongly supported by every major law enforcement group because it responds directly to their needs. The law enforcement groups supporting the continuation and expansion of the program include the following:

- Fraternal Order of Police;
- National Sheriffs' Association;
- International Brotherhood of Police Officers;
- International Association of Chiefs of Police;
- Major Cities Chiefs;
- National Association of Police Organizations;
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives;
- National Troopers Coalition;
- Police Executive Research Forum;
- The Police Foundation;
- Law Enforcement Steering Committee; and
- U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Republicans Want to Eliminate the COPS Program

Republicans zero out the COPS program. Despite its proven track record and widespread support from law enforcement officers, Senate Republicans have targeted the COPS program for elimination. **S. 1217**, the *FY 2000 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill*, which was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 10, 1999, eliminates the COPS program next year, and provides no funding for the 21st Century Policing Initiative, the Democratic proposal to extend the program to allow police departments to hire up to 50,000 additional officers.

Democrats support funding for 50,000 more officers. Last month, during consideration of **S. 254**, the *Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999*, every Democratic Senator voted for an amendment offered by Senator **Biden** to reauthorize the COPS program through 2005. Unfortunately, 50 Republican Senators voted against continuing the COPS program. The amendment would have authorized the following amounts over a six year period:

- \$3.6 billion to fund up to 50,000 more community police officers;
- \$2.1 billion for State and local governments to acquire new technologies to help them fight crime more efficiently; and
- \$1.2 billion for community prosecutors.

Senate Democrats Work to Extend the COPS Program

The COPS program has provided grants to thousands of police departments to hire more than 100,000 additional police officers. Over the last five years, we have seen that more officers on the streets mean significantly fewer crimes.

Despite its proven record of success, and despite support from every major law enforcement group in the United States, Senate Republicans have targeted the COPS program. Republicans want to close the COPS office down, and they oppose funding for even one additional community police officer.

In sharp contrast, Senate Democrats support an initiative to put as many as 50,000 more officers on the streets by extending the program for an additional six years. Democrats are committed to preserving and extending the COPS program—a tough, common-sense approach to fighting crime.

Number of Officers Funded by COPS Grants (State-by-State as of June 24, 1999)

State/Territory	Number of Officers	Funding
AK	254.2	\$22,111,967
AL	1,559.8	\$87,611,390
AR	1,095.7	\$59,114,780
AS	30.0	\$970,218
AZ	1,866.5	\$123,528,802
CA	13,801.3	\$893,193,154
CO	1,112.4	\$65,411,655
CT	1,208.9	\$71,743,849
DC	809.0	\$14,508,038
DE	417.1	\$20,279,425
FL	6,312.0	\$363,649,507
GA	2,123.5	\$116,808,274
GU	40.0	\$2,937,052
HI	467.9	\$16,807,662
IA	658.1	\$41,327,128
ID	281.8	\$16,445,669
IL	4,922.3	\$302,068,437
IN	1,230.5	\$68,214,938
KS	716.3	\$44,076,212
KY	1,141.7	\$61,500,347
LA	1,866.3	\$89,103,812
MA	2,890.0	\$177,048,152
MD	2,265.1	\$125,648,683
ME	258.0	\$17,765,633
MI	3,276.3	\$175,072,810
MN	1,223.8	\$75,033,461
MO	2,025.6	\$112,775,668
MP	90.0	\$4,862,666
MS	1,205.2	\$61,471,451
MT	227.3	\$14,800,839

State/Territory	Number of Officers	Funding
NB	1.0	\$61,130
NC	2,443.6	\$121,172,387
ND	204.0	\$12,818,996
NE	561.8	\$26,956,996
NH	429.1	\$31,618,975
NJ	3,982.8	\$243,822,867
NM	663.8	\$40,114,404
NV	239.8	\$12,966,123
NY	10,507.8	\$641,634,106
OH	3,273.2	\$194,341,259
OK	928.5	\$53,949,549
OR	1,192.5	\$82,984,962
PA	3,304.0	\$182,486,656
PR	3,235.9	\$119,214,963
RI	327.2	\$15,188,815
SC	984.8	\$62,549,908
SD	272.3	\$18,107,805
TN	1,957.8	\$117,355,548
TX	4,555.8	\$279,500,041
UT	914.1	\$60,022,800
VA	1,948.3	\$115,751,745
VI	114.6	\$9,995,724
VT	184.9	\$11,995,525
WA	1,682.4	\$111,709,938
WI	1,135.5	\$70,251,744
WV	604.5	\$32,409,932
WY	67.4	\$4,038,490
Grand Total	101,094.0	\$5,918,912,684